

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
an input section configured to receive color image signals;
a printing color designating section configured to designate printing colors of two colors;
a conversion section configured to receive the color image signals which are received from the input section and to convert the color image signals to two-state signals in a dimension-dropped fashion; and
a color allocation section configured to allocate the printing colors of two colors which are designated by the printing color designating section to the converted two-state signals,
wherein the conversion section converts the color image signals into the two-state signals in accordance with whether the color image signals are chromatic color or achromatic color image signals, and the conversion by the conversion section is a color conversion using a look-up table.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the allocation of the printing colors by the color allocation section is an inking processing.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an identification processing section configured to identify whether, with respect to the converted two-state signals, a character is represented or a picture is represented and to independently set parameters of the identification processing to the two-state signals.

6. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a filtering processing section configured to perform a filtering processing on the converted two-state signals and to independently set parameters of the filtering processing to the converted two-state signals.

7. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an identification processing section configured to identify whether, with respect to the converted two-state signals, a character signal is represented or a picture signal is represented and to independently set parameters of the identification processing to the two-state signals and a filtering processing section configured to perform a filtering processing on the converted two-state signals and independently set parameters of the filtering processing to the two-state signals, wherein, when the two color designation is made with the same color on the printing color designating section, the filtering processing section has its parameters set to allow the converted two colors from the conversion section to be printed as the same concentration reproduction.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a compression section configured to independently perform a compression processing on the converted two-state signals from the conversion section,

a storage section configured to store the compressed two-state signals from the compression section, and

a decoding section configured to perform a decoding processing on the compressed two-state signals which are stored in the storage section.

9. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising:

designating printing colors of two colors;

converting input color image signals to two-state signals in a dimension-dropped fashion; and

allocating the designated printing colors of two colors to the converted two-state signals,

wherein converting the color image signals into the two-state signals is a color conversion using a look-up table, in which the color image signals are converted into the two-state signals in accordance with whether the input color image signals are chromatic color or achromatic color image signals.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 9, wherein the allocating is done by an inking processing.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 9, further comprising identification processing ~~is done~~ for identifying whether, with respect to the converted two-state signals, a character signal is represented or a picture signal is represented and independently setting parameters of the identification processing ~~are independently set~~ to the two-state signals.

14. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 9, further comprising filtering processing ~~is done~~ on the converted two signals and independently setting parameters of the filtering processing ~~are independently set~~ to the two-state signals.

15. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 9, further comprising performing an identification processing operation ~~is done~~ for identifying whether, with respect to the converted two-state signals, a character signal is represented or a picture signal is represented and independently setting parameters of the identification processing ~~are independently set~~ to the two-state signals, and performing a filtering processing ~~is done~~ on the converted two-state signals and independently setting parameters of the filtering processing ~~are independently set~~ to the two-state signals, wherein if the two color designation is done

with the same color, the parameters of the identification processing and parameters of the filtering processing are so set that the converted two-state signals can be printed in the same concentration reproduction.

16. (Currently Amended) An image processing method according to claim 9, further comprising compression processing ~~is done~~ independently on the converted two-state signals, storing the compressed two-state signals, and decoding processing ~~is done~~ on the stored compressed two-state signals.